

PROPERTIES OF OIL PALM SHELL  
LIGHTWEIGHT AGGREGATE CONCRETE  
CONTAINING UNGROUND PALM OIL FUEL  
ASH AS FINE AGGREGATE REPLACEMENT

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MASTER OF SCIENCE

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## **SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION**

We hereby declare that We have checked this thesis and in our opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science.

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## **STUDENT'S DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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## ABSTRAK

Kerosakan alam sekitar yang disebabkan peningkatan aktiviti pengkuarian batu baur granit dan pasir bagi memenuhi keperluan industri pembinaan adalah suatu isu yang perlu diselesaikan. Pada masa yang sama, aktiviti pembuangan tempurung kelapa sawit (OPS) dan abu terbang kelapa sawit (POFA) dari kilang pemprosesan minyak sawit menyebabkan pencemaran alam. Demi memastikan kelestarian sumber batu granit dan industri minyak sawit yang mesra alam, penyelidikan ini dijalankan untuk mengintegrasikan sisa buangan sawit tersebut sebagai agregat di dalam konkrit. Justeru itu, penyelidikan ini mengkaji kesan penggunaan POFA sebagai bahan separa pengganti pasir terhadap sifat mekanikal dan ketahananlasakan konkrit agregat ringan. Pada peringkat awalan, bancuhan percubaan telah dibuat untuk mendapatkan campuran konkrit yang paling optimum dengan campuran yang sesuai. Kesan awetan udara dan air terhadap kekuatan mampatan, kekuatan pemisahan, kekuatan lenturan dan *modulus* keanjalan konkrit yang mengandungi POFA sebanyak 0%, 10%, 15% dan 20% sebagai bahan separa pengganti pasir turut dilaporkan. Kajian turut dijalankan terhadap ketahananlasakan konkrit mengandungi POFA dari segi rintangan terhadap serangan asid, sulfat dan pengkarbonatan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan sampel konkrit dengan 10% POFA yang direndam di dalam air menunjukkan kekuatan tertinggi. Ini disebabkan oleh kesan tindakbalas pozzolan dan pengisi oleh POFA yang meningkatkan kepadatan dan kekuatan konkrit. Walau bagaimanapun, penggunaan POFA 20% menghasilkan konkrit dengan kekuatan terendah. Penggunaan awetan air membantu konkrit yang mengandungi POFA mencapai kekuatan mampatan, lenturan, tegangan dan modulus keanjalan yang lebih tinggi berbanding sampel awetan udara. Konkrit agregat ringan yang mengandungi 10% POFA juga menunjukkan rintangan tertinggi terhadap serangan asid, sulfat dan pengkarbonatan. Semua sampel konkrit aggregate ringan diklasifikasikan sebagai konkrit berkualiti kerana menyerap air kurang daripada 10% ketika ujian serapan air dijalankan. Konkrit yang diawet di dalam air sehingga 365 hari tidak menunjukkan kesan pengkarbonatan. Pengawetan air membantu memastikan proses penghidratan dan tindakbalas pozzolan dapat mengurangkan kalsium hidroksida dan meningkatkan CSH gel yang boleh meningkatkan ketahanan konkrit. Kesimpulannya, kejayaan dalam menggunakan abu terbang kelapa sawit sebagai bahan separa pengganti pasir di dalam penghasilan konkrit agregat ringan dapat mengurangkan kuantiti penggunaan pasir semulajadi yang dilombong dari sungai dan mengurangkan jumlah sisa kilang sawit yang dibuang di tapak pelupusan.

## ABSTRACT

Environmental degradation due to increasing granite aggregate quarrying and river sand mining to supply the construction industry needs is an issue which need to be solved. At the same time, the disposal of oil palm shells (OPS) and palm oil fuel ash (POFA) from palm oil mills is causing environmental pollution. In view of sustained supply of natural aggregate and a more environmental friendly palm oil industry, the present research attempt to integrate both palm oil wastes as alternative aggregates in concrete. Thus, this research investigates the effect of unground POFA content as partial fine aggregate replacement towards mechanical and durability of OPS lightweight aggregates concrete. At the first stage, trial mix has been conducted to select the optimum lightweight concrete mix design. The effect of air and water curing regime on this environmental friendly concrete containing unground POFA ranging from 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% by weight of sand were examined in term of the compressive strength, splitting strength, flexural strength and modulus of elasticity for a duration of 1 year. Testing on durability performance of the concrete specimens in the aspect of acid resistance, sulphate resistance and carbonation has been conducted. The finding shows that water cured OPS LWAC with 10% of unground POFA as sand replacement performs the best amongst all concrete specimens. The application of optimum amount of sand replacement resulted in a better densification from the pozzolanic reaction and filler effect by unground POFA thus making the OPS LWAC denser and stronger. However, inclusion of unground POFA up to 20% produces concrete with the lowest mechanical strength values. As for curing effect, the water curing specimen shows better result in term of compressive, flexural, splitting and modulus of elasticity compare with the air curing specimen. Water cured OPS LWAC containing 10% of unground POFA achieve higher durability against acid and sulphate attack compare with the other specimen. All specimens for air and water curing present the good result in term of water absorption testing where the result is below than 10% which is represent as a good quality of concrete. No carbonation rate was detected for specimen subjected to water curing until the age of 365 days. Air cured specimens begins to carbonate at age of 180 days where specimen contain 10% amount of unground POFA have the lowest carbonation value compare with control specimen and the other percentage of replacement specimen. Water curing promotes undisturbed hydration process and pozzolanic reaction which enhances the durability of OPS LWAC specimen with 10% POFA as compared to the air cured ones. Conclusively, success in utilizing unground POFA as partial fine aggregate replacement in OPS lightweight aggregate concrete would reduce quantity of natural sand mined from the river and amount of palm oil solid waste disposed at landfill.

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